Agriculture Profile

Vanderhoof District

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

85-3857/

EC
Az2P46
C
A57V2
1984
c.5

ISBN 0-7726-0150-X

AGRICULTURE PROFILE

VANDERHOOF DISTRICT

VICTORIA, B.C.

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

AUGUST, 1984

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data
Main entry under title:
Vanderhoof District

(Agriculture profile, ISSN 0710-3042)
Produced by Policy Development and Economics Division. Cf. Acknowledgements.
Revision of: McFadden, M., 1955- . Regional profile for Vanderhoof District Office area. 1980.
ISBN 0-7726-0150-X

1. Agriculture - Economic aspects - British Columbia - Vanderhoof Region. 2. Agriculture - British Columbia - Vanderhoof Region. I. McFadden, M., 1955- . Regional profile for Vanderhoof District Office area. II. British Columbia. Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Policy Development and Economics Division. III. Series.

HD1790.B7V36 1984 338.1'09711'2 C84-092235-3

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This series of agricultural profiles was produced by the Policy Development and Economics Division, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The report is descriptive, and includes statistical information from a variety of sources. It is designed primarily as an information base for use by Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff in district goal identification and program planning.

The authors acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and co-operation received from individuals and organizations both public and private during the preparation of this report.

This report is one of a series covering the eighteen District Agriculturists' Office Areas of British Columbia.

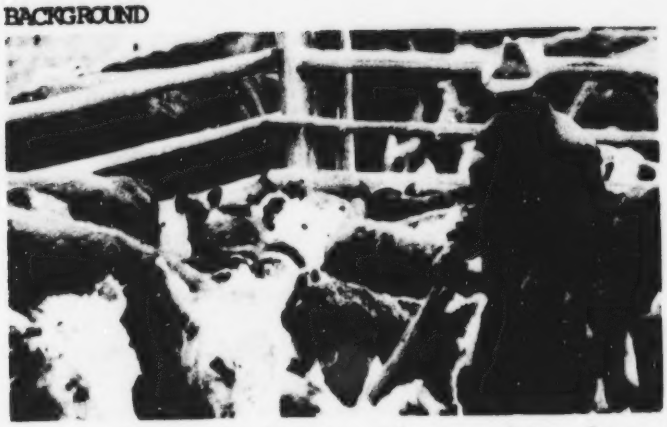
Abbotsford
Chilliwack
Cloverdale
Courtenay
Cranbrook
Creston
Dawson Creek
Duncan
Fort St. John
Kamloops
Oliver
Prince George
Quesnel
Salmon Arm
Smithers
Vanderhoof
Vernon
Williams Lake

BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGIONS

AGRICULTURAL PROFILE - VANDERHOOF DISTRICT

PREFACE

BACKGROUND



The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food has divided the Province into eighteen agricultural districts, each served by a District Agriculturist. Profiles of these districts were first developed in 1980 under the Canada-British Columbia Agriculture and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement (A.R.D.S.A).

The availability of new data from the 1981 Census of Agriculture resulted in a need for major revision. The present profile is an updated version reflecting the Census information. At the same time, the profiles have been expanded to include information not previously available, and many of the tables have been restructured to show a more detailed breakdown of different variables by farm sales.

CAVEAT

As the agricultural districts were designed to meet the needs of the farming community, and as their boundaries were developed to ensure efficient use of the District Agriculturist's time, the boundaries do not necessarily coincide with those of the Census Divisions or Subdivisions. However, statistical data from the Census of Agriculture is currently only available for Census Divisions and Subdivisions. An attempt was made, both in the original profiles and in these updates, to choose census divisions and subdivisions which most closely represent the agricultural districts. In this profile all references to the Vanderhoof District are to the area covered by census division 51-Bulkley-Nechako sub A.

STRUCTURE

The profiles have been designed to provide a comprehensive source of statistical information on each agricultural district. They have been divided into three sections: an overview of the district, a description of the farms and farmers of the district, and a description of the farm products of the district.

CONTENTS

Page

Acknowledgement iii

Preface v

- Background
- Structure
- Scope
- Methodology

Contents vii

List of Tables viii

List of Maps ix

Overview: Vanderhoof District 1

Vanderhoof: Agricultural Resource Base 13

- Farm Taxfiler's Income
- Agricultural Employment
- Agricultural Activity
- Agricultural Land Development Act Work
- Farm Capital
- Age of Operators

Vanderhoof: Agricultural Production 24

- Livestock and Related
- Vegetables and Specialty Crops
- Small Fruit and Tree Fruit
- Field Crops

Appendix 33

- Terms Used in Census of Agriculture
- Terms Used in Land Capability Ratings

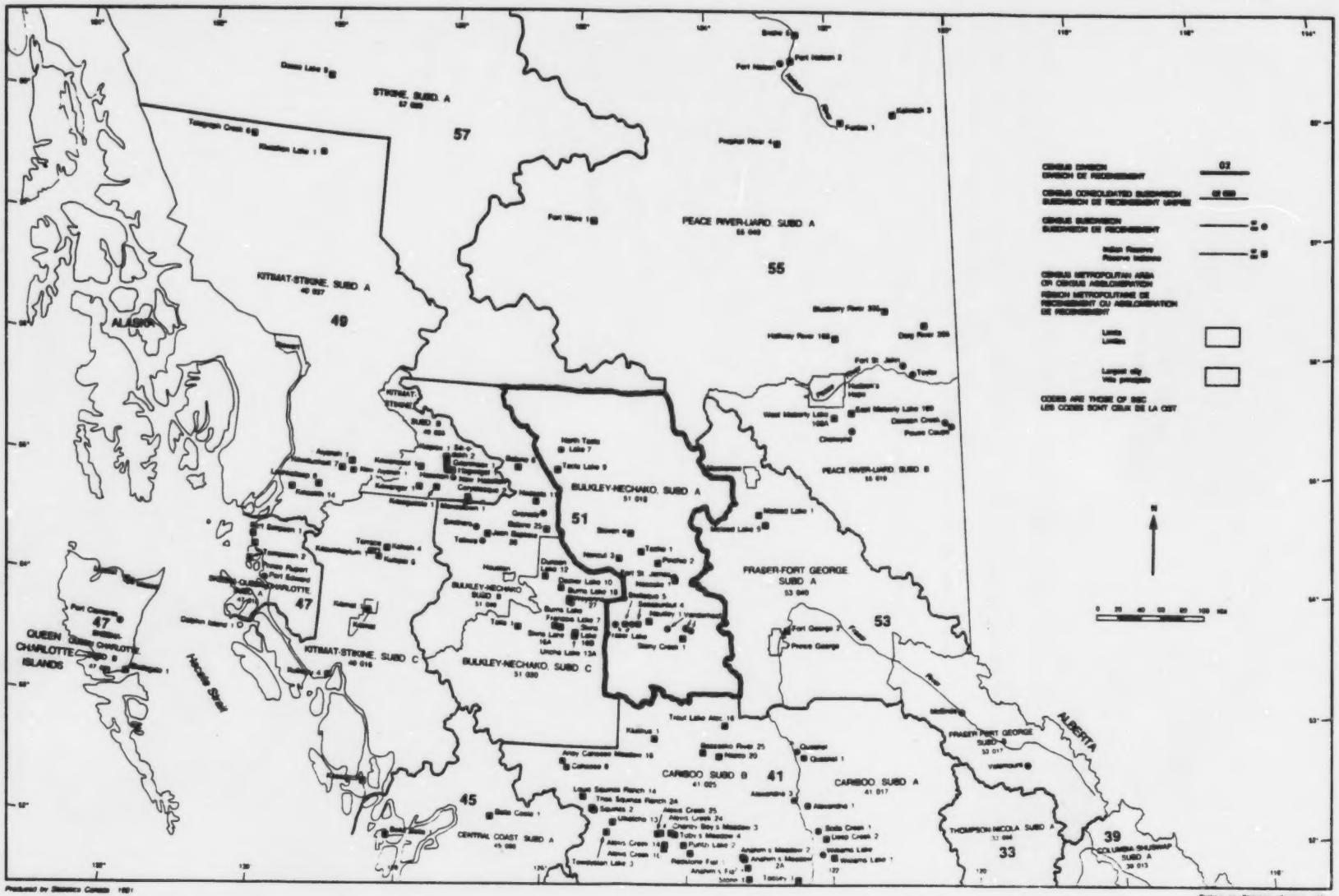
LIST OF TABLES

		Page
1.	Climatic Data - Vanderhoof/Niagara Falls/Saskatoon Compared	3
2.	Agricultural Land Reserve Areas: Summary Table	5
3.	Agriculture Land Capability	7
4.	Agriculture and Grazing Lease Data	8
5.	Use of Land by Farm Sales Class	9
6.	Number of Farms by Farm Sales Class	10
7.	Farms Classified by Product Type and Sales.	11
8.	Farms Classified by Size and Sales.	12
9.	Farms Classified by Capital Value and Sales	14
10.	Total Farm Capital by Farm Sales.	15
11.	Sales of Farms.	16
12.	Average Age of Farmers.	17
13.	Farm Taxfilers' Incomes	18
14.	Off-Farm Work by Farm Operators - By Type of Work	19
15.	Off-Farm Work by Farm Operators - By Number of Days	20
16.	Hired Agricultural Labour by Farm Sales	21
17.	A.L.D.A. Work Completed	22
18.	Spraying, Dusting and Irrigation.	23
19.	Use of Fertilizer	23
20.	Estimate of Farm Cash Receipts.	25
21.	Area in Field Crops by Farm Sales	26
22.	Area in Vegetables by Farm Sales.	27
23.	Area in Small Fruit by Farm Sales	28
24.	Area in Tree Fruit by Farm Sales.	29
25.	Area in Specialty Crops by Farm Sales	30
26.	Livestock Numbers by Farm Sales	31
27.	Poultry Numbers by Farm Sales	32

LIST OF MAPS

B.C. Agricultural Reporting Regions	iv
Vanderhoof Agricultural District	x
Central Region Agricultural Land Reserve Area	4
Central Region Land Capability Ratings	6

VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT



OVERVIEW: VANDERHOOF DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

The Vanderhoof Agricultural District occupies 3.2 million hectares in the Central Agricultural Reporting Region. The district consists of typical interior terrain including rolling plateau broken by rugged low ranges.

Census figures indicate a 1981 population of 13,990, a decrease of 0.4 percent over 1976 levels. The urban/rural distribution has shifted slightly over the last few years, the urban segment now represents 43.6 percent of the total population up from 33 percent in 1976. Total experienced labour force totals 7,025, with the majority employed in the manufacturing, personal services, trade and resource sectors.

The major agricultural activity in the district consists of beef production. In 1981, cattle production was the primary activity of 54 percent of farms. Field crops, almost exclusively fodder crops accounted for 15 percent of holdings while miscellaneous specialty production was reported by 10 percent of operations. Cattle production was the primary activity of 68 percent of holdings with sales greater than $50,000 in 1981. Farm cash receipts totalled $10 million in 1981, 1.1 percent of the provincial total. Cattle and calves and dairy accounted for 48 and 23 percent of receipts respectively.

The Vanderhoof District accounts for 82,553 hectares in agricultural holdings, approximately 4 percent of the provincial total. The total number of farms enumerated in 1981 was 441. Farms are larger than the provincial average in Vanderhoof where 27 percent of holdings are more than 225 hectares. Average farm size is 187 hectares compared to 109 hectares for the province as a whole. In 1981, 57 percent of farmland was classified as improved compared with 43.4 percent for the province.

The district has a high potential for agricultural expansion given the availability of relatively low cost land coupled with favourable summer growing conditions. High crop yields can be maintained through effective land management including irrigation, fertilization and harvesting practises. The major constraint to increasing farm incomes in recent years has been the lack of secondary agricultural facilities such as seed-cleaning operations, alfalfa dehydration, vegetable storage and livestock finishing.

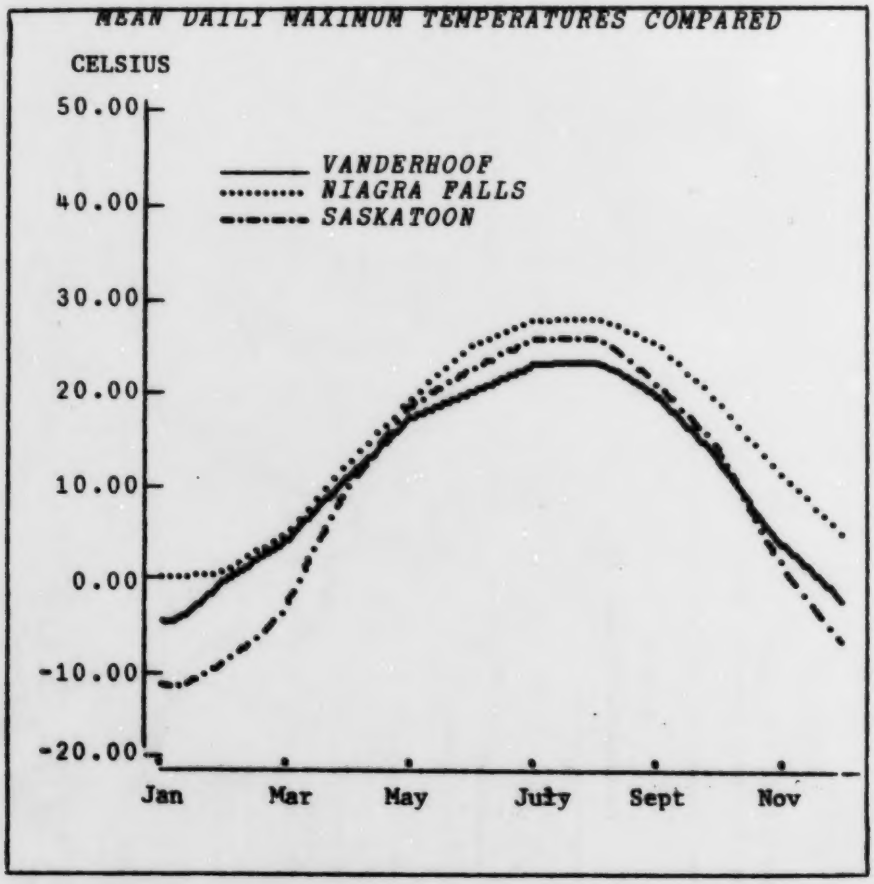
TABLE 1

CLIMATIC DATA

VANDERHOOF/NIAGARA FALLS/SASKATOON COMPARED

	VANDERHOOF	NIAGARA FALLS	SASKATOON
Growing Degree Days	1,089.9	2,472.7	1,619.9
Frost Free Period	54	172	117
Total Precipitation	463.7	942.3	348.8

Source: Canadian Climate Normals 1951-1980
Temperature and Precipitation Normals 1951-1980
Environment Canada



CENTRAL ALR AREAS

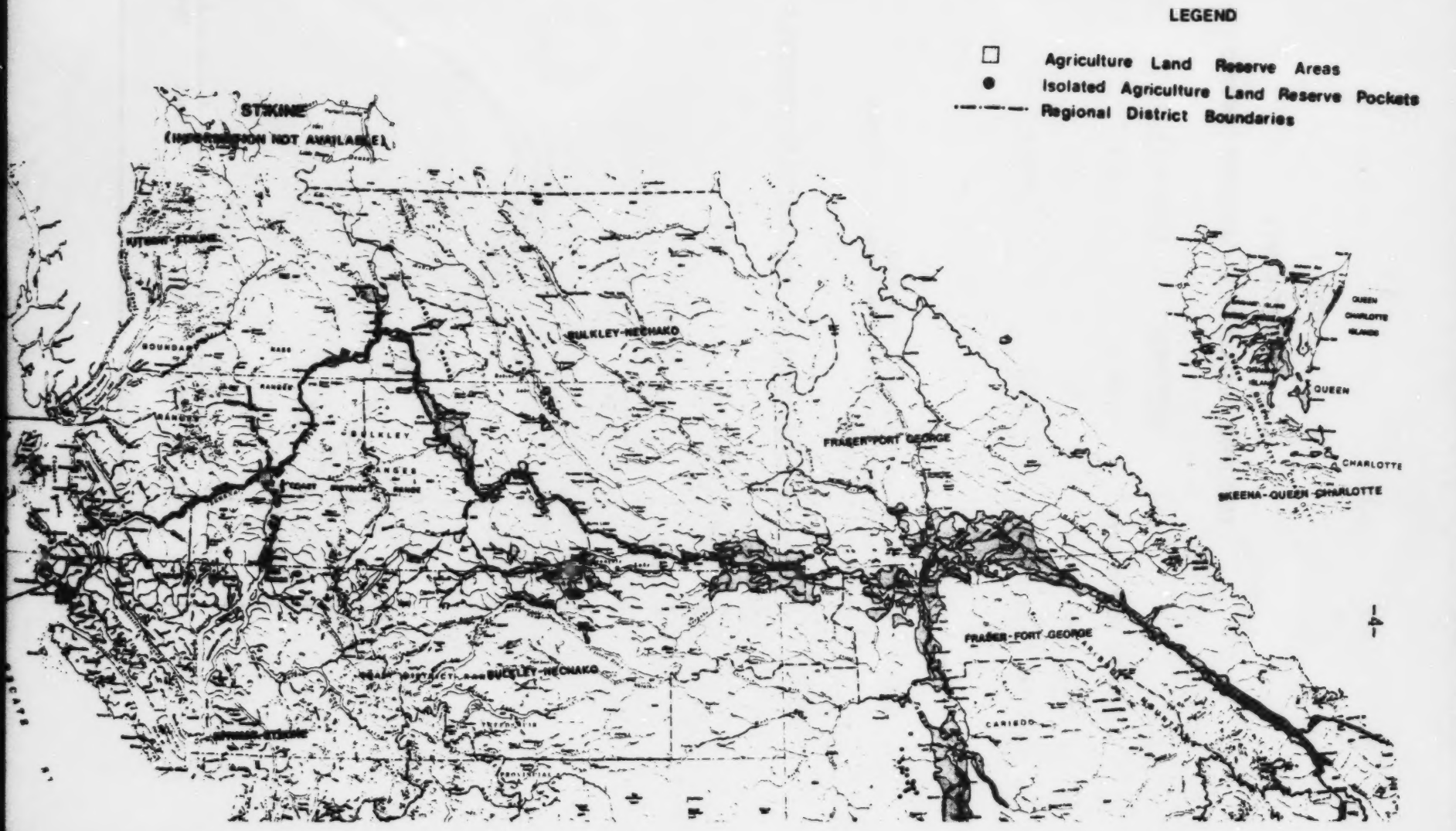


TABLE 2
BULKLEY-NECHAKO REGIONAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE AREAS IN HECTARES
SUMMARY TABLE: LAND CAPABILITY CLASS BY PRESENT LAND USE

Present Land Use

	1	2	3	4	1-4	5	6	7	Water	Total	%Total
Forages and Grains	0	0	4,880	15,930	20,810	22,110	2,120	390	0	45,430	15
Horticulture	0	0	10	40	50	20	0	0	0	70	0
Grassland and Pasture	0	0	670	4,150	4,820	9,360	1,790	330	0	16,300	5
Forest	0	0	8,270	58,520	66,790	124,490	28,510	13,650	0	233,440	76
Non-Productive Lands	0	0	150	810	960	1,400	190	80	8,580	11,210	4
Total	0	0	13,980	79,450	93,430	157,380	32,610	14,450	8,580	306,450	
% Total	0	0	4	26	30	51	11	5	3		

Source: B.C. Land Inventory Report, Vol. 1, 2
Tallsman Project Inc., 1980.

CENTRAL LAND CAPABILITY

class 1,2,3

class 4,5

TABLE 3

CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGION

AGRICULTURE LAND CAPABILITY

Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Water Surface	Other*	Total
Hectares:										
Unimproved	-	9,545	91,831	461,509	1,240,611	428,253	4,110,796	506,906	30,438,133	37,287,585
Improved**	40	9,505	100,374	481,299	1,220,768	433,605	4,096,954	506,906	30,438,133	37,287,585
Percent:										
Unimproved	-	0.03	0.25	1.2	3.3	1.2	11.02	1.36	81.63	100.00
Improved**	-	0.03	0.27	1.3	3.3	1.2	10.99	1.36	81.63	100.00

*Other includes unclassified urban areas, national parks and unmapped portions of the district.
**Rating if land unit were irrigated and/or drained.

Source: Agriculture Land Capacity in British Columbia, ARDA Project #89077, 1976.

TABLE 4
VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING LEASE DATA IN HECTARES

Lease Type: Grazing

Year	No. of Leases	Area
1983	3	283.6
1982	0	-
1981	0	-
1980	0	-
1980-1983	3	283.6
TOTAL	11	1,064.1

Lease Type: Extensive Agriculture

1983	18	1,655.3
1982	33	4,462.1
1981	69	9,632.1
1980	14	1,887.2
1980-1983	134	17,636.7
TOTAL	198	25,932.3

Lease Type: Intensive Agriculture

1983	0	-
1982	0	-
1981	5	206.9
1980	2	16.7
1980-1983	7	223.6
TOTAL	8	235.1

Total lease area in Vanderhoof: 1980-1983: 18,143.82
Total lease area in Vanderhoof: 27,231.45

Source: B.C. Crown Land: Range and Cultivated Land Inventory, B.C.M.A. 1984

TABLE 5

USE OF LAND BY FARM SALES CLASS VANDERHOOF, 1981-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	107	44	66	64	119	41	441
Total Area of Farms	7,411	5,247	8,609	31,398	31,398	21,672	82,553
Total Improved Land Area	3,503	2,252	4,093	4,399	18,422	14,359	47,028
Total Area Under Crop	1,768	1,242	2,240	2,411	9,801	7,756	25,218
Number of Farms Reporting	76	39	57	56	110	41	379
Area of Improved Pasture	1,236	608	1,035	1,333	6,880	5,668	16,761
Number of Farms Reporting	53	26	40	43	87	37	286
Area in Summer Fallow	269	92	599	215	554	341	2,069
Number of Farms Reporting	18	5	14	8	17	7	69
Other Improved Land Area	230	310	220	441	1,187	593	2,981
Number of Farms Reporting	63	34	43	48	88	33	309
Total Unimproved Land Area	3,908	2,995	4,122	4,210	12,977	7,313	35,525
Woodland Area	1,285	694	687	1,463	4,997	2,628	11,754
Number of Farms Reporting	37	16	25	29	58	16	181
Other Unimproved Land Area	2,623	2,301	3,435	2,748	7,980	4,684	23,771
Number of Farms Reporting	76	29	49	46	85	30	315

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture
December 1983

TABLE 6

VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT:

NUMBER OF FARMS BY FARM SALES CLASS

SALES	$-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10,000+
1971	158	44	92	42
1976	107	62	57	68
1981	105	49	46	115

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 7

VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY PRODUCT TYPE AND SALES -1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Dairy	-	1	2	-	3	6	12
Cattle	35	21	38	34	82	28	238
Hogs	5	1	-	2	2	-	10
Poultry	11	6	7	3	1	1	29
Small Grains	5	3	4	10	7	1	30
Other Field Crops	19	3	2	5	8	-	37
Fruits and Vegetables	2	-	1	-	-	-	3
Miscellaneous Specialty	18	4	6	6	10	1	45
Livestock Combination	8	4	4	4	4	2	26
Field Crop Combinations	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Other Combinations	4	1	2	-	1	1	9
TOTAL	**107**	**44**	**66**	**64**	**119**	**41**	**441**

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 8

VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
1-2 Acres	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
3-9 Acres	10	1	-	1	-	-	12
10-69 Acres	19	5	3	2	6	-	35
70-129 Acres	15	6	12	3	1	1	38
130-179 Acres	32	13	21	17	15	-	98
180-239 Acres	5	2	4	5	3	1	20
240-399 Acres	17	9	10	18	20	4	78
400-559 Acres	4	4	5	7	15	5	40
560-759 Acres	2	3	5	7	23	3	43
760-1119 Acres	2	-	2	4	19	7	34
1120-1599 Acres	-	-	2	-	8	6	16
1600 Acres and Over	-	1	1	-	9	14	25
TOTAL	107	44	66	64	119	41	441

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

VANDERHOOF: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE BASE

Farm Taxfiler's Income

The district has a relatively high proportion of low income operations. In 1981, 64 percent of farms had sales less than $10,000 compared to 60 percent for B.C. as a whole. Average gross farm income reported was $26,600 in 1981 compared to $39,959 provincially. Almost all taxfilers in the Vanderhoof District reported some off farm income, with 65 percent reporting wages and salaries.

Agricultural Employment

Over 94 percent of reported days off farm work included non agricultural labour, approximately 79 percent of off farm work was reported from holdings with sales less than $10,000. Farm operators hired an average 7 weeks of farm labour, compared with 24 weeks for the province as a whole. In 1981, farms with sales greater than $50,000 provided 60 percent of agricultural employment.

Agricultural Land Development Act

The 1981 census reported 147 more holdings than in 1976. Land clearing has accounted for over 71 percent of A.L.D.A. expenditures since 1971, with over 6,000 hectares cleared during the period 1971-81. Approximately 21 percent of funds are allocated to land breaking, which has totalled 4,200 hectares since 1971. Operators report using 2,925 tonnes of fertilizer on 19,077 hectares of agricultural land in 1981.

Farm Capital

The total nominal value of farm capital has increased from $58 million in 1976 to $127 million in 1981. The per farm average rose from $198,000 to $288,000 over the same period. The proportion of investment in land and buildings, livestock and machinery has remained relatively constant since 1976. In 1981, total farm capital per hectare was $1,540, about one-third of the provincial average.

Age of Operators

The age distribution of farmers remained relatively constant over the period 1976-81 with the largest increase in the 60-64 age group, the total number of farmers increased by 8 percent, the district now represents 2.2 percent of the provincial total.

TABLE 9

VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY CAPITAL VALUE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

Capital Value	Sales $250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Less Than $10,000	1	-	-	-	1
$25,000-49,999	8	4	1	-	13
$50,000-99,999	44	26	5	2	77
$100,000-199,999	70	57	24	1	152
$200,000-499,999	24	38	64	12	138
$500,000 AND OVER	4	5	25	26	60
TOTAL	151	130	119	41	441

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 10

TOTAL FARM CAPITAL BY FARM SALES, 1981: VANDERHOOF DISTRICT

	$250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000+	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	151	130	119	41	441
TOTAL CAPITAL VALUE	24,282,002	26,557,860	43,658,644	32,658,457	127,156,969
VALUE OF LAND & BUILDINGS	20,650,717	21,410,107	31,662,085	21,144,500	94,867,409
VALUE OF MACHINERY	2,565,566	3,409,551	5,861,672	4,749,950	16,586,739
VALUE OF LIVESTOCK-POULTRY	1,065,719	1,738,208	6,134,887	6,764,007	15,702,821
AVERAGE CAPITAL VALUE	160,808	204,291	366,879	796,548	288,338
RATIO OF CAPITAL VALUE TO MIDDLE VALUE OF FARM SALES CLASS	117	33	12	5	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE II

1983 SALES OF FARMS-CENTRAL REGION

Area Name	No. Pcls.	Hectares	Sale Price	Value of Improvements	Residual Value	Actual Value	Assessment Sales Ratio	Mkt Value $/Hectare
Northwest	17	1,496	$1,697,000	$243,500	$1,453,500	$318,870	0.219	971
Prince George	36	2,815	2,985,201	458,400	2,526,801	904,311	0.358	897

Source: B.C. Assessment Authority.

TABLE 12

AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS: VANDERHOOF DISTRICT

	1976	1981	CHANGE
Under 25	3	9	+6
25 - 34	63	72	+9
35 - 44	116	117	+1
45 - 54	132	122	-10
55 - 59	46	49	+3
60- 64	21	38	+17
65 - 69	13	23	+10
70 & Over	14	11	-3
TOTAL	408	441	+33
TOTAL PERCENT OF B.C.	2.1	2.2	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 13
CENTRAL REGION
FARM TAXFILER'S INCOME 1980.

	# of Farm Taxfilers	Average Gross Farm Income $'000s	Total Gross Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Farm Net Income	Average Net Farm Income $'000s	Total Net Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Wages & Salaries	Average Wage & Salary $'000s	# Reporting Off Farm Income	Average Off Farm Income $'000s	Total Off Farm Income $'000s	Average Income All Sources $'000s	Total Income All Sources $'000s
Fraser-Ft. George	310	17.8	5,524.5	299	(6.28)	(1,945.9)	210	10.8	299	15.1	4,689.4	8.9	2,743.5
Prince George	770	14.7	11,295.1	756	(3.27)	(2,521.0)	589	18.3	753	25.0	19,209.1	21.7	16,688.2
Bulkley-Nechako	1,170	26.6	31,103.3	1,143	(2.10)	(2,453.5)	762	12.3	1,128	17.2	20.166.1	15.1	17,712.6
Stikine	10	15.2	151.6	10	404	4040	8	11.5	10	22.2	221.6	22.6	225.6
Kitimat-Stikine	190	7.9	1,503.3	185	(3.85)	(730.7)	144	15.5	190	22.4	4,247.8	18.5	8,517.1
Skeena	10	6.3	63.2	8	(1.59)	(15.88)	7	14.3	9	17.6	175.8	16.0	159.9
Prince Rupert	15	3.1	45.7	15	(1.04)	(15.54)	13	22.9	15	28.0	420.6	27.0	405.1
Total/ Omineca	2,475	20.1	49,686.8	2,416	3.10	(7,678.5)	1,733		2,404	19.9	49,130.4	16.8	41,452.0

Source: Revenue Canada.

TABLE 14

OFF-FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY TYPE OF WORK & FARM SALES, 1981: VANDERHOOF

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	107	44	66	64	119	41	441
DAYS OF OFF-FARM WORK	15,512	7,198	9,926	9,856	9,607	1,691	53,790
FARMS REPORTING	75	32	47	47	63	18	282
AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	354	261	295	1,133	585	149	2,777
FARMS REPORTING	7	4	4	8	11	6	40
NON-AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	15,158	6,937	9,631	8,723	9,022	1,542	51,013
FARMS REPORTING	73	30	46	45	59	13	266

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 15
VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
OFF FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY NUMBER OF DAYS AND FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

Number of Days	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,000	$50,000+	TOTAL
7-12	-	1	-	-	1	1	3
13-24	1	-	1	1	1	3	7
25-48	2	-	-	3	10	4	19
49-72	2	1	3	-	4	2	12
73-96	5	-	2	1	1	1	10
97-126	7	-	2	2	8	2	21
127-156	1	2	1	2	6	1	13
157-228	20	12	12	14	17	3	78
229-365	37	16	26	24	15	1	119
Total	75	32	47	47	63	18	282

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 16

HIRED AGRICULTURAL LABOUR BY FARM SALES, 1981: VANDERHOOF

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	107	44	66	64	119	41	441
TOTAL WEEKS OF HIRED LABOUR	115	36	61	102	845	1,769	2,928
FARMS REPORTING	12	6	9	13	45	29	114
WEEKS OF YEAR-ROUND LABOUR	54	-	-	3	344	1,070	1,471
FARMS REPORTING	3	-	-	2	9	8	22
WEEKS OF SEASONAL LABOUR	61	36	61	99	501	699	1,457
FARMS REPORTING	10	6	9	13	39	26	103

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 17

AGRICULTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT ACT WORK DONE, APRIL 1971 - MARCH 1982: VANDERHOOF DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

	CLEARED			BROKEN			IRRIGATION	DRAINAGE	OTHER	TOTAL
Fiscal Year	Hectares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Hecatares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	$'000
1971/72	152	99	15	129	23	3	-	-	1	19
1972/73	105	105	11	93	25	2	-	-	-	13
1973/74	395	99	39	409	27	11	-	-	-	50
1974/75	1,310	110	144	512	37	19	-	-	8	171
1975/76	1,650	112	185	1,175	35	41	10	-	2	238
1976/77	401	120	48	227	35	8	-	-	8	64
1977/78	395	162	64	252	48	12	-	-	7	83
1978/79	543	144	78	363	66	24	-	-	9	111
1979/80	502	176	89	393	79	31	-	-	22	142
1980/81	400	200	80	483	135	65	-	-	16	161
1981/82	229	197	45	172	128	22	-	-	5	72

SOURCE: British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food, A.L.D.A. Branch Records

TABLE 18

SPRAYING, DUSTING AND IRRIGATION, 1981: VANDERHOOF

Spraying and Dusting (any)	20
Weed Control (Hec.)	478
Farms Reporting	20
For Insect Control (Hec.)	2.4
Farms Reporting	1
Irrigation - Total Area (Hec.)	193
Farms Reporting	13
Sprinkler System - Total Area (Hec.)	157
Farms Reporting	9

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 19

FERTILIZER USE, 1981: VANDERHOOF

Total Area (hectares)	19,077
Tonnes	2,925
No. Reports of Any Use	267
Total Cropland (Hec.)	4,690
Tonnes	961
Farms Reporting	115
Total Tame Hay (Hec.)	11,342
Tonnes	1,601
Farms Reporting	206
Total Improved Pasture (Hec.)	3,045
Tonnes	363
Farms Reporting	101

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Livestock and Related Products

Sales of livestock and products for 1981 were valued at $7.7 million or 77 percent of total farm cash receipts. Cattle operations accounted for $4.9 million of this total or 4 percent of provincial beef sales. Total cattle herd size increased by 32 percent to 26,970 head over the period 1976-81. There is a continuing trend away from just cow-calf operations towards more backgrounding, utilizing locally produced feed, mostly cereal silage. The dairy industry is relatively stable with the dairy herd experiencing virtually no fluctuation since 1976.

Sheep production is small but expanding, mostly in small farm flocks. Most sales are direct off the farm, the sheep population has almost doubled to 3,500 since 1976. Predator problems are a constant source of difficulty for the industry and hinder large scale production. The hog industry has remained relatively minor, mostly as a subsidiary activity. The majority of production is marketed locally to the freezer trade. In recent years there has been a growing interest in large scale hog production, the population has almost doubled to 967 since 1976.

The poultry industry has experienced some expansion in recent years with the chicken population increasing by almost 20 percent to 18,000 since 1976. The majority of the chicken population is concentrated in the low to middle sales brackets. Other poultry products, primarily ducks and geese have experienced some expansion, increasing 7 percent since 1976 mostly in small farm flocks.

Vegetables/Specialty Crops

Field vegetable receipts totalled $44,300 in 1981, potato production accounts for more than one-half of this total. Census data indicates that three holdings report vegetable production as a intensive activity in the Vanderhoof area. Hothouse vegetables were valued at $38,000, there were over 1,000 square meters of greenhouse space in 1981.

Field Crops

Field crops, mostly barley and oats totalled $337,000 in 1981 farm cash receipts. Honey is also an important cash crop with 1981 receipts totalling $145,600.

TABLE 20

ESTIMATE OF FARM CASH RECEIPTS, 1981

VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

COMMODITY	FARM CASH RECEIPTS $'000	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE OF B.C. OUTPUT
Wheat	20.29	0.20	0.23
Oats	117.66	1.18	4.05
Barley	197.64	1.98	2.40
CWB Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canola	1.67	0.02	0.08
Potatoes	23.28	0.23	0.13
Small Fruits	11.06	0.11	0.03
Field Vegetables	21.01	0.21	0.07
Floriculture/Nursery	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forest Prod.	134.75	1.35	5.76
Cattle & Calves	4,845.26	48.43	3.95
Income Ins.	704.70	7.04	
Hogs	197.02	1.97	0.38
Income Ins.	0.36	0.00	
Sheep	137.66	1.38	5.22
Income Ins.	8.09	0.08	
Poultry & Eggs	243.32	2.43	0.18
Income Ins.	0.09	0.00	
Dairy Products	2,314.74	23.13	1.07
C.D.C. Subsidy	92.42	0.92	
Honey	145.36	1.45	2.85
Tree Fruit	13.09	0.13	0.02
Income Ins.	5.59	0.06	
Hothouse	38.23	0.38	0.13
Income Ins.	1.34	0.01	
Other	730.81	7.30	1.07
TOTAL	10,005.40		

SOURCE: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 1983.

TABLE 21

AREA IN FIELD CROPS BY FARM SALES, 1981: VANDERHOOF-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	107	44	66	64	119	41	441
Flaxseed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canola	-	-	-	2.4	18	-	21
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Tame Hay - Total	1,193	888	1,831	1,752	7,477	5,256	18,397
Farms Reporting	62	38	54	50	103	37	344
Alfalfa and Mixtures	365	185	591	304	3,158	1,593	6,197
Farms Reporting	24	9	24	15	51	18	141
Other Tame Hay	828	703	1,240	1,448	4,319	3,662	12,200
Farms Reporting	48	32	43	43	82	28	276
Oats for Fodder	234	106	146	143	565	608	1,803
Farms Reporting	23	11	13	16	39	17	119
Other Fodder Crops	115	-	48	107	203	593	1,066
Farms Reporting	6	-	4	6	9	14	39

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 22

VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

AREA OF VEGETABLES ON FARMS, IN HECTARES- 1981 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	107	44	66	64	119	41	441
Vegetables	-	-	1.6	-	-	4.1	5.7
Farms Reporting	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Asparagus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Broccoli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cabbage	-	-	-	-	-	4.1	4.1
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Carrots	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cauliflower	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cucumbers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green Peas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lettuce	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Onions (Dry)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rutabagas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweet Corn	-	-	1.6	-	-	-	1.6
Farms Reporting	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Tomatoes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Vegetables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE 23
VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SMALL FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	107	44	66	64	119	41	441
Small Fruits	-	-	1.6	-	-	-	1.6
Farms Reporting	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Strawberries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grapes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Berries	-	-	1.6	-	-	-	1.6
Farms Reporting	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 24
VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN TREE FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	107	44	66	64	119	41	441
Tree Fruits	2.42	0.36	-	-	-	-	2.79
Farms Reporting	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Apple	2.0	0.12	-	-	-	-	2.12
Farms Reporting	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
No. of Apple Trees	150	17	-	-	-	-	167
Pear	-	0.04	-	-	-	-	0.04
Farms Reporting	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Number of Pear Trees	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Plum and Prune	-	0.04	-	-	-	-	0.04
Farms Reporting	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Number of Trees	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Cherry (Sweet)	0.41	0.04	-	-	-	-	0.45
Farms Reporting	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
No. of Cherry Trees	33	8	-	-	-	-	41
Cherry (Sour)	-	0.04	-	-	-	-	0.04
Farms Reporting	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Number of Trees	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Peach	-	0.04	-	-	-	-	0.04
Farms reporting	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
No. of Peach Trees	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Apricot	-	0.04	-	-	-	-	0.04
Farms reporting	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
No. of Apricot Trees	-	10	-	-	-	-	10

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 25
VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SPECIALTY CROPS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	151	130	119	41	441
Nusery Products	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-
Greenhouse Sq. Metres	375	n.a.	n.a.	-	1,005
Farms Reporting	4	1	2	-	7

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 26
VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	151	130	119	41	441
Cattle-Total Number	1,596	2,923	10,849	11,605	26,973
Farms Reporting	89	102	102	39	332
Cows-Total Number	599	1,119	4,273	4,194	10,185
Farms Reporting	77	96	91	37	301
Dairy Cows-Number	62	60	135	695	952
Farms Reporting	32	29	23	11	95
Beef Cows-Number	537	1,059	4,138	3,499	9,235
Farms Reporting	61	81	86	35	263
Heifers-Total Number	239	541	1,229	1,741	3,750
Farms Reporting	57	73	77	29	236
Steers-Number	171	237	1,315	1,726	3,449
Farms Reporting	43	51	59	28	181
Bulls-Number	48	92	248	215	603
Farms Reporting	38	65	81	32	216
Calves-Number	539	934	3,784	3,729	8,986
Farms Reporting	73	87	91	36	287
Pigs-Total Number	244	117	562	44	967
Farms Reporting	42	27	22	4	95
Sheep-Total Number	897	547	1,915	138	3,497
Farms Reporting	16	17	11	5	49
Horses-Number	347	340	415	217	1,319
Farms Reporting	69	73	76	27	245

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

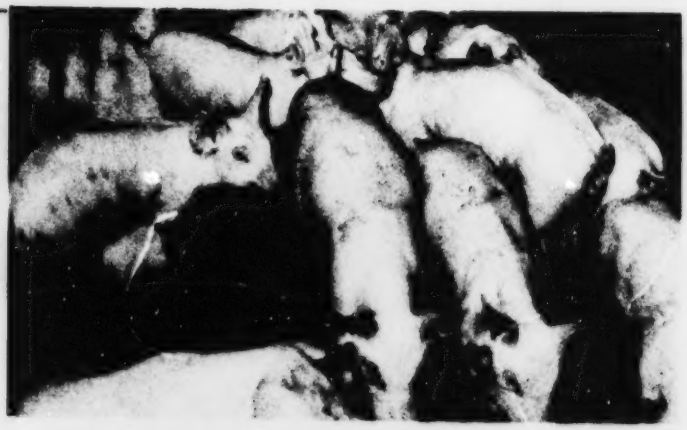


TABLE 27
VANDERHOOF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
POULTRY NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	151	130	119	41	441
Hens/Chickens Total No.	4,023	5,008	2,645	6,515	18,191
Farms Reporting	82	66	48	20	216
Turkeys-Number	189	117	104	19	429
Farms Reporting	21	19	13	3	56
Geese-Number	78	190	n.a.	n.a.	342
Farms Reporting	9	20	9	1	39
Ducks-Number	54	118	38	30	240
Farms Reporting	12	12	9	4	37

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

APPENDIX

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Census-farm areas

The area of census-farms reported for each subdivision represents the area of land operated by farmers whose headquarters are in the subdivision.

Crown lands, usually pasture land, which were operated under a lease agreement with federal, provincial or municipal governments, are reported as part of the farming operation of the person to whom the land was leased. However, land which was used under a per head grazing permit or fee is not included.

Large areas of timber land or other non-agricultural land held by the operator, but operated apart from the farm business, are excluded.

Use of Land

All farm land is classified according to use under two major divisions: improved and unimproved land.

Improved Land

1) Crop land - Included in this item is the total area of crop land sown for harvest in the census year. Crop land includes the total area of all field crops, plus the areas of fruits, vegetables, greenhouses, mushroom houses and nursery products. Because some crops are reported in fractions of a hectare, there may be slight differences between the sum of the individual crop areas and the total crop land.

2) Improved pasture - All land which was being used for pasture or grazing and which has had some improvements made to it in recent years is included. Improvements would include cultivation, drainage, irrigation, fertilization, seeding down or spraying.

3) Summer fallow - The enumerator was instructed to include in this item land from which no crop was to be harvested during the census year, but which was to be cultivated or worked during the year for weed control and/or for moisture conservation.

4) Other improved land - This item includes the area of barnyards, home gardens, lanes and roads on farms. It also includes areas of cultivated land that were lying idle, being neither summer-fallowed nor cropped, and areas of new breaking that had not been seeded to a crop.

Unimproved Land

The area of unimproved land consists of the total areas reported for 1) woodland and 2) other unimproved land.

1) Woodland - This includes farm woodlots, land leased for cutting, sugar bush and cut-over land with young growth which has or will have value as timber, fuelwood or Christmas trees. The area of tress planted for wind-breaks was also to be included. It excludes large timber tracts which are run as a separate business from the farm. There is some evidence that changes in the area of this item between censuses may be due to differences in interpretation. This would be particularly true in areas of bushland.

2) Other unimproved land - Areas of native pasture or hay land that had not been cultivated, bush pasture, grazing or waste land, sloughs, marsh and rocky land et cetera, are all included in this item.

TERMS USED IN LAND CAPABILITY RATINGS

Class 1	land is capable of producing the very widest range of vegetables, cereal grains, forages, berry fruits and numerous specialty crops. Soil and climatic conditions are opitimum.
Class 2	land is capable of producing a wide range of regional crops as above with some differences in variety due to minor restrictions of soils and climate.
Class 3	land is capable of producing a fairly wide range of regional crops under good management practices. Soils and/or climate limitations are somewhat restrictive.
Class 4	land is capable of a restricted range of regional crops such as hardy cereal grains, hardy vegetables, and forages. Soil and climate limitations demand special management considerations.
Class 5	land is capable of production of perennial forage crops only. Soil and/or climate restrictions severely limit the land's capability.
Class 6	land is natural rangeland. Soil and/or climate limitations preclude cultivation, but the land may be important in its natural state as grazing land.
Class 7	land has no agricultural capability whatsoever.
UNIMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory dry-farm ratings. They do not reflect either present land use or the state of readiness for cultivation, but only the potential capability if used for agriculture.
IMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory irrigated ratings. They reflect the capabitity for agriculture if the land unit were irrigated and/or drained. They do not indicate whether the land unit is presently either irrigated or drained.
WATER SURFACES	This category includes all non-seasonal lakes and rivers. It also includes that part of the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the Mainland that falls within latitudes 49 N to 51 N.
OTHER	This category includes all regions of the province that were not mapped due to limited agricultural potential, national parks, and unmapped urban areas.

Central Region

District Office

Church Avenue
Box 987
Vanderhoof, B.C.
V0J 3A0

Telephone: 567-2111

Queen's Printer for British Columbia ©
Victoria, 1985